

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

5 Claims 1-46 (canceled)

Claim 47 (new): A water disposal system for disposing water generated during power generation by a power generator, comprising:

10 a water-absorbing member extending from the power generator, for recovering and moving the water by utilizing capillary phenomenon; and
 a water-retaining member for temporarily accumulating the water.

Claim 48 (new): The water disposal system according to claim 47, wherein

15 the power generator is a fuel cell comprising:
 an anode supplied with a substance substantially composed of hydrogen as an active anode material;
 a cathode exposed to air and supplied with oxygen as an active cathode material; and
20 an electrolyte film disposed between the anode and cathode.

Claim 49 (new): The water disposal system according to claim 48, wherein

25 the cathode has a current collector formed thereon,
 an opening through which oxygen is supplied to the cathode is formed in the current collector, and
 a water-absorbing member formed on a circumference of the opening.

Claim 50 (new): The water disposal system according to claim 49,
30 wherein

the water-absorbing member is formed to surround the circumference of the opening so as to cover the opening and to reach the cathode.

5 Claim 51 (new): The water disposal system according to claim 47,
wherein

the water-absorbing member is composed any one of a string-formed material having a void portion formed therein in a longitudinal direction thereof, and a porous material having recessed portions on the surface thereof.

10 Claim 52 (new): The water disposal system according to claim 47,
wherein

the water-absorbing member is provided on a surface of an electronic device to which the power generator is mounted, as being extended therefrom.

15 Claim 53 (new): The water disposal system according to claim 47,
wherein

the water-absorbing member has any one of an irregular-shaped portion and a projected portion.

20 Claim 54 (new): The water disposal system according to claim 52,
wherein

the water-retaining member is provided between the water-absorbing member and the electronic device.

25 Claim 55 (new): The water disposal system according to claim 47,
wherein

a water-absorbing layer having at least water absorbency, air permeability and electro-conductivity, is provided between a diffusion layer and a current collector.

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Claim 56 (new): A method of disposing water generated during power generation by a power generator, comprising

recovering and moving the water by utilizing capillary phenomenon, and disposing the water to the external of the power generator including after temporary
5 accumulation.

Claim 57 (new): The method of disposing water according to claim 56, wherein

the water existed in a diffusion layer is absorbed by a water-absorbing layer
10 having at least water absorbency, air permeability and electro-conductivity, provided between a diffusion layer and a current collector, and the water absorbed by the water-absorbing layer is further absorbed by a water-absorbing member partially brought into contact with the water-absorbing layer.

Claim 58 (new): A power generation apparatus for generating electric power by supplying a fuel gas and an oxidizer gas wherein the fuel gas and the oxidizer gas can electrochemically react with each other to generate electric power, comprising:

a water-absorbing member extending from the power generator such that the
20 water can be recovered and moved by utilizing capillary phenomenon.

Claim 59 (new): The power generation apparatus according to claim 58, further comprising:

a water-retaining member for temporarily accumulating the water.
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Claim 60 (new): The power generation apparatus according to claim 58, further comprising:

a water-absorbing layer having at least water absorbency, air permeability and electro-conductivity, provided between a diffusion layer and a current collector.
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Claim 61 (new): A water disposal system for disposing water generated during power generation by a power generator, comprising:

a separator having, formed thereon, a fuel supply groove for supplying a fuel gas to a first electrode and an oxidizer supply groove for supplying an oxidizer
5 to a second electrode, and for holding the power generator; and

water disposal means for disposing the water, wherein the water disposal means is provided at least on a midway portion of the oxidizer supply groove.

Claim 62 (new): The water disposal system according to claim 61,
10 wherein

the water disposal means includes a water-absorbing member for absorbing the water.

Claim 63 (new): The water disposal system according to claim 62,
15 wherein

the water disposal means is provided along at least a partial region of a sidewall of the oxidizer supply groove.

Claim 64 (new): The water disposal system according to claim 63,
20 wherein

the water-absorbing member is provided so as to cover at least a part of the surface having the oxidizer supply groove formed therein.

Claim 65 (new): The water disposal system according to claim 64,
25 wherein

the separator has a heat sink portion formed thereon for dissipating heat of the power generator; and

the water-absorbing member provided so as to cover at least a part of the surface having the oxidizer supply groove formed therein is formed so as to be a
30 predetermined shape extended from the surface having the heat sink portion formed

therein, and so that the region of the predetermined shape covers at least a part of the oxidizer supply groove.

5 Claim 66 (new): The water disposal system according to claim 62,
 wherein
 the water-absorbing member includes a member absorbing the water by
utilizing capillary phenomenon.

10 Claim 67 (new): The water disposal system according to claim 66,
 wherein
 the water-absorbing member is an aggregate of string-formed fiber having a
void portion formed therein in the longitudinal direction.

15 Claim 68 (new): The water disposal system according to claim 66,
 wherein
 the water-absorbing member comprises a three-layered structure in which a
two-layered structure including a first material having a water-absorbing/releasing
property and a second material having a water absorbency bonded with each other
is bonded with a predetermined tape material on the lower side of the second
20 material.

 Claim 69 (new): The water disposal system according to claim 68,
 wherein
 the second material includes a material absorbing the water by utilizing
25 capillary phenomenon.

 Claim 70 (new): The water disposal system according to claim 61,
 wherein
 the water disposal means includes the oxidizer supply groove having a
30 roughened surface.

Claim 71 (new): The water disposal system according to claim 61,
wherein

the water disposal means includes the oxidizer supply groove having a high
water-repellent region formed therein.

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Claim 72 (new): The water disposal system according to claim 61,
wherein

the water disposal means includes the oxidizer supply groove having a high
hydrophilic region formed therein.

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Claim 73 (new): The water disposal system according to claim 61,
wherein

the fuel gas includes a hydrogen gas; and
the oxidizer gas includes air including oxygen.

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Claim 74 (new): The water disposal system according to claim 61,
wherein

the power generator has a predetermined electrolyte film provided between
the first electrode and the second electrode.

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Claim 75 (new): The water disposal system according to claim 61,
further comprising:

a water-absorbing layer having at least water absorbency, air permeability
and electro-conductivity, provided between a diffusion layer and the separator.

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Claim 76 (new): A method of disposing water generated during power
generation by a power generator, comprising:

generating power by supplying a fuel gas to a first electrode through a fuel
supply groove formed on a separator which holds the power generator, where an
oxidizer gas is supplied to a second electrode through an oxidizer supply groove

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formed on the separator thereby allowing the power generator to generate electric power; and

disposing the water using water disposal means provided on a midway region of the oxidizer supply groove.

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Claim 77 (new): The method of disposing water according to claim 76, wherein

the water existed in the diffusion layer is absorbed by a water-absorbing layer having at least water absorbency, air permeability and electro-conductivity, provided between the diffusion layer and the separator during water disposal; and
10 the water absorbed by the water-absorbing layer is further absorbed by a water-absorbing member partially brought into contact with the water-absorbing layer.

Claim 78 (new): A power generation apparatus for generating electric
15 power by supplying a fuel gas and an oxidizer gas such that the fuel gas and the oxidizer gas can electrochemically react with each other, comprising:

a power generator having a predetermined electrolyte film provided between a first electrode and a second electrode;

a separator having, formed thereon, a fuel supply groove for supplying the
20 fuel gas to the first electrode and an oxidizer supply groove for supplying the oxidizer gas to the second electrode, and for holding the power generator; and

water disposal means for disposing water generated during power generation by the power generator, provided at least on a midway portion of the oxidizer supply groove.

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Claim 79 (new): The power generation apparatus according to claim 78, wherein

the water disposal means is a water-absorbing member for absorbing the
30 water.

Claim 80 (new): The power generation apparatus according to claim 79, wherein

the water-absorbing member is provided along at least a partial region of a sidewall of the oxidizer supply groove.

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Claim 81 (new): The power generation apparatus according to claim 80, wherein

the water-absorbing member is provided so as to cover at least a part of the surface having the oxidizer supply groove formed therein.

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Claim 82 (new): The power generation apparatus according to claim 81, wherein

the separator has a heat sink portion formed thereon for dissipating heat of the power generator; and

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the water-absorbing member provided so as to cover at least a part of the surface having the oxidizer supply groove formed therein is formed so as to be a predetermined shape extended from the surface having the heat sink portion formed therein, and so that the region having the predetermined shape covers at least a part of the oxidizer supply groove.

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Claim 83 (new): The power generation apparatus according to claim 79, wherein

the water-absorbing member includes a member absorbing the water by utilizing capillary phenomenon.

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Claim 84 (new): The power generation apparatus according to claim 83, wherein

the water-absorbing member is an aggregate of string-formed fiber having a void portion formed therein in a longitudinal direction.

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Claim 85 (new): The power generation apparatus according to claim 83, wherein

the water-absorbing member comprises a three-layered structure in which a two-layered structure including a first material having a water-absorbing/releasing
5 property and a second material having a water absorbency bonded with each other is further bonded with a predetermined tape material on the lower side of the second material.

Claim 86 (new): The power generation apparatus according to claim
10 85, wherein

the second material includes a material absorbing the water by utilizing capillary phenomenon.

Claim 87 (new): The power generation apparatus according to claim
15 78, wherein

the water disposal means includes the oxidizer supply groove having a roughened surface is used.

Claim 88 (new): The power generation apparatus according to claim
20 78, wherein

the water disposal means includes the oxidizer supply groove having a high water-repellent region formed therein.

Claim 89 (new): The power generation apparatus according to claim
25 78, wherein

the water disposal means includes the oxidizer supply groove having a high hydrophilic region formed therein.

Claim 90 (new): The power generation apparatus according to claim
30 78, wherein

the fuel gas includes a hydrogen gas; and

the oxidizer gas includes air including oxygen.

Claim 91 (new): The power generation apparatus according to claim 78, further comprising:

5 a power generation section having a stacked structure in which a plurality of elements holding the power generator by the separator is stacked.

Claim 92 (new): The power generation apparatus according to claim 78, further comprising:

10 a water-absorbing layer having at least water absorbency, air permeability and electro-conductivity, provided between a diffusion layer and the separator.